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HOUSE BILL 2130 By
Cooper B

SENATE BILL 2331
By Ford J

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 3, Part 5 and Section 71-1-130, relative to child welfare agencies.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-3-504(b), is amended by adding a new, appropriately designated subdivision, as follows:

() The standards committee created by this section shall, if necessary, be re-established by the commissioner and shall develop and recommend to the commissioner additional standards for improving the quality of child care. Such recommendations shall specifically address minimum qualifications for directors and care givers, training of staff, and procedures that will focus on licensure and enforcement actions of child welfare agencies that fail to meet minimum standards or otherwise need technical assistance or heightened monitoring. Such recommendations shall also address mechanisms for rewarding or encouraging agencies that exceed minimum standards and for improving day care services that are reimbursed by the department on behalf of low income families pursuant to Section 71-1-130.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 71-1-130(c), is amended by adding the following language at the end of that subsection:

Such report shall specify the technical assistance, monitoring and licensure actions taken by the department during the prior twelve (12) month period as to centers and homes reimbursed on behalf of low-income families. The department 's technical assistance, monitoring and licensure actions shall be conducted so as to encourage such centers and homes to meet and exceed the minimum standards developed under Section 71-3-504.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.